

**TOWN OF SUDBURY
FINANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 21, 2016**

ATTENDANCE

Finance Committee Members Present: Susan Berry, Chair; Fred Floru, Vice Chair; Joan Carlton, Adrian Davies, Jose Garcia-Meitin, Mark Minassian (Mr. Minassian arrived at 7:38 pm), Bryan Semple

Also Present:

Charles Woodard, Sudbury Board of Selectmen, Dennis Keohane, Interim Finance Director, Jim Kelly, Facilities Director, Bill Braun, Chairman of the Energy and Sustainability Committee, Bella Wong, Superintendent, Lincoln Sudbury Regional High School (LSRHS), Radha Gargeya, LS School Committee

Absent: Jeff Atwater, Jeff Barker

CONVENE:

The meeting was called to order at 7:36 p.m. by Chairman, Susan Berry at the Flynn Building, 278 Old Sudbury Road, Sudbury, MA 01776. Chairman Berry stated that Finance Committee member Joan Carlton is participating remotely. Chairman Berry stated that per the vote of the Sudbury Board of Selectmen at the 12/15/15 meeting members are able to participate remotely. Chairman Berry outlined the remote participation rules.

ITEM 1: GENERAL BUSINESS

Approve Minutes:

Motion and Vote

Bryan Semple moved and Jose Garcia-Meitin seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2016 meeting as amended.

The motion carried. On a roll call, the vote was unanimous: Susan Berry, yes; Joan Carlton, yes; Adrian Davies, yes; Fred Floru, abstain; Jose Garcia-Meitin, yes; and Bryan Semple, yes.

Transfers:

There were no transfers.

Other Business:

Chairman Berry read an email on correspondence from Town Counsel regarding the Village at Sudbury Station. Chairman Berry stated

that representatives of the town should not enter onto this property without permission.

Chairman Berry stated that on Tuesday, March 22 there would be a presentation from the Protect Sudbury group in the Lincoln Sudbury Regional High School Auditorium. The presentation will include an introduction of the attorney that has been hired as well as information on the proposed power lines.

Chairman Berry introduced the new Interim Finance Director, Dennis Keohane.

ITEM 2: Deliberation and Possible Votes on Articles

- Article 15 DPW Underground Fuel Storage Replacement
Chairman Berry stated that someone is coming in this week to meet with Jim Kelly and to give him information about the cost, and process for testing the tank's inner and outer wall and to make recommendations. The person is a specialist on underground fuel tank. A general discussion followed on the warranty that has expired. Jim Kelly was available to provide additional information.

Chairman Berry stated that she recommends that the Finance Committee not vote on this item until they have more information.

- Article 17 Town and Schools Parking Lots, and Sidewalks Improvements

Chairman Berry stated that the proposed recommended number is going to change.

Chairman Berry stated that she does not recommend that the Finance Committee vote on this item until they have more information.

- Article 18 Nixon School Crosswalk Traffic Signal
Chairman Berry stated that this Article was held because there were two different numbers being recommended. One was a \$45,000 amount and the other was a \$25,000 amount. Chairman Berry stated that the amount is actually \$25,000. Mr. Kelly confirmed that the amount is correct. Chairman Berry stated that she contacted the Chairman of the CIAC to inform him of the Finance Committee's concern over the increase in the tax levy. Chairman Berry stated that the CIAC are meeting on Thursday, March 24 to discuss priority items. Mr. Kelly provided additional information on the need for a crosswalk at the Nixon School. A brief discussion followed.

Motion and Vote

Adrian Davies moved and Fred Floru seconded the motion to recommend approval of 18 Nixon School Crosswalk Traffic Signal. **The motion carried. On a roll call, the vote was unanimous: Susan Berry, yes; Joan Carlton, yes; Adrian Davies, yes; Fred Floru, yes; Jose Garcia-Meitin, yes; Mark Minassian, yes; and Bryan Semple, yes.**

- Article 11 Establish a Solar Energy Revolving Fund
Bill Braun, Chairman of the Energy and Sustainability Committee spoke about the purpose for this article. Mr. Braun stated that an account is needed to process payments from Eversource for the solar energy that is generated. A lengthy discussion followed on spending practices. Ms. Rodrigues explained how the funds are to be expended from the revolving fund. Discussion followed.

Motion and Vote

Jose Garcia Meitin moved and Adrian Davies seconded the motion to recommend approval of Article 11 Establish a Solar Energy Revolving Fund.

The motion carried. On a Roll Call Vote: Susan Berry, yes; Joan Carlton, yes; Adrian Davies, yes; Fred Floru, yes; Jose Garcia-Meitin, yes; Mark Minassian, no; and Bryan Semple, yes. The vote was 6-1-0 (6 yes, 1 no)

- Article 43 Community Preservation Fund General Budget and Appropriations
Chairman Berry reviewed answers to questions from a previous meeting. Mr. Minassian asked why within the regional service agreement is Sudbury paying the most and how many units are being monitored. Mr. Semple stated that he would like CPC to be clear at Town Meeting that there is no bonding capability left. Discussion followed.

Chairman Berry stated that she does not recommend that the Finance Committee vote on the CPC budget until they have more information. A brief discussion followed on rescinding the previous vote on Article 41.

Motion and Vote

Bryan Semple moved and Mark Minassian seconded the motion to rescind the favorable recommendation on Article 41 Community Preservation Fund - Sudbury History Center and Museum at the Loring Parsonage in the amount of \$400,000 to be revisited at a subsequent meeting.

The motion carried. On a Roll Call Vote: Susan Berry, yes; Joan Carlton, no; Adrian Davies, yes; Fred Floru, no; Jose Garcia-Meitin, no; Mark Minassian, yes; and Bryan Semple, yes. The vote was 5-3-0 (5 yes, 3 no)

- Article 12 Rolling Stock Stabilization Fund - Repurposing
Mr. Woodard stated that this article broadens the scope of use to include town and school rolling stock equipment. Discussion followed.

Motion and Vote

Jose Garcia-Meitin moved and Fred Floru seconded the motion to recommend approval of 12 Rolling Stock Stabilization Fund - Repurposing.

The motion carried. On a roll call, the vote was unanimous: Susan Berry, yes; Joan Carlton, yes; Adrian Davies, yes; Fred Floru, yes; Jose Garcia-Meitin, yes; Mark Minassian, yes; and Bryan Semple, yes.

ITEM 3: LSRHS FY15 Certified E&D Funds/Stabilization Fund

Bella Wong, Superintendent, LSRHS spoke about what happens at the end of the school year in a regional school district with surplus revenue. She explained that any surplus is rolled into an Excess and Deficiency (E&D) fund. She also explained that the E&D Fund becomes Free Cash for the district to use for emergency purposes. Ms. Wong stated that regional school districts also have Stabilization Funds. Ms. Wong stated that Lincoln Sudbury has a Stabilization Fund for the purpose of creating a resource for capital assets. Ms. Wong explained that as of yearend FY15 the E&D Fund was certified at \$1,176,919. Ms. Wong stated that on Tuesday, March 22 she is going to recommend to the LS School Committee that they amend their FY16 Budget to allow for the transfer of \$600,000 from the E&D Fund to the Stabilization Fund earmarked for funding capital assets. Ms. Wong noted that the amendment to the FY16 budget does not change the assessment for the member towns.

Chairman Berry noted that the Finance Committee would not need to take action on this item at this time. Chairman Berry stated that she thought it important that Finance Committee members hear about this item and have an opportunity to ask questions or express concerns. A lengthy discussion followed. Ms. Carlton asked about the process to not approve the transfer of funds from the E&D Fund to the Stabilization Fund. Ms. Wong responded that the action would need to go to Town Meeting to be deemed not approved and that the Board of Selectmen would need to put it on the Town Warrant. Mr. Woodard stated it is an illustration of lack of control the town of Sudbury has over the funding. Chairman Berry stated that once LS School Committee votes this item, both Lincoln and Sudbury would receive notice.

ITEM 4: Budget Strategies Task Force (BSTF) Debrief

Chairman Berry stated that she would like the Finance Committee to consider whether or not to recommend to the Board of

Selectmen that they continue with the BSTF for another year. Discussion followed on the tenets of the BSTF Mission Statement. Chairman Berry stated that some progress has been made and that change is slow. Chairman Berry also stated that there were some good ideas on best practices from other regional school districts. Chairman Berry stated that she would like to see it continue for at least another year.

Motion and Vote

Bryan Semple moved and Mark Minassian seconded the motion to recommend to the Board of Selectmen reestablishing the Budget Strategies Task Force for FY17.

The motion carried. On a roll call, the vote was unanimous:

Susan Berry, yes; Joan Carlton, yes; Adrian Davies, yes; Fred Floru, yes; Jose Garcia-Meitin, yes; Mark Minassian, yes; and Bryan Semple, yes. (Joan Carlton left the meeting)

Motion and Vote

Adrian Davies moved and Fred Floru seconded the motion noting that Joan Carlton has left the meeting and a roll call vote is no longer needed.

The motion carried. On a roll call, the vote was unanimous:

Susan Berry, yes; Adrian Davies, yes; Fred Floru, yes; Jose Garcia-Meitin, yes; Mark Minassian, yes; and Bryan Semple, yes.

ITEM 5: Joint Meeting with Lincoln Finance Committee Debrief

Mr. Semple summarized the conversation with the Lincoln Finance Committee on out of district cost. Mr. Semple suggested getting a sampling of out of district cost over a ten-year period from comparable regional school districts. Chairman Berry stated that she would like to see how other districts keep out of district cost within its own town (as one unit). The discussion continued on out of district costs strategies.

ITEM 6: Possible FinCom Items for Research/Action

- Capital Request Information for FinCom

A lengthy discussion ensued on information that Finance Committee should have to evaluate need and to make informed decision on capital request.

- Staffing Level Increases/Decreases - Town, SPS LSRHS
The discussion on this item involved developing a methodology on evaluating the need for increase staffing request.

- LSRHS Regional Agreement
Postponed

ITEM 7: Public Comments

Radha Gargeya stated that as a citizen of Sudbury, he commends

the Finance Committee on their thoughtful analysis of the budgetary process.

ITEM 8: Adjournment

Motion and Vote:

Adrian Davies moved and Jose Garcia-Meitin seconded to motion, that the March 21, 2016 Finance Committee meeting adjourn at 11:00 p.m.

The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Next scheduled meeting of the Finance Committee is Monday, April 11, 7:30pm in the Flynn Building.

Respectfully Submitted: Cheryl Gosmon, Recording Secretary